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NEWS RELEASE

Memorial Day weekenders may face long lines at DMV

Days leading up to Memorial Day weekend are notoriously the worst times to register your boat, RVs or automobile, and this year should prove to be no different. Instead of standing in line, the DMV encourages coming in earlier in the month, renewal by mail or renewal on-line via www.renewalexpress.utah.gov.

If you are getting your boat or RV out for the upcoming holiday weekend, you aren't alone. The DMV said that the rush is due to the fact that all boats and off-highway vehicles in the state of Utah are due for registration and renewals in the month of April. Still, many owners typically wait until the big Memorial Day weekend to get them legal and out of the garage. This means that for any of you who find yourself in line at the DMV in the days just before the holiday weekend, it could be a long wait.

If you have any doubts, compare these two time periods from 2001:

May 15th:

Average wait: 20 to 40 minutes. Longest wait: 1.25 hours.

Days just before Memorial Day:

Average wait time: 1.5 - 2 hours. Longest wait: 3 hours +.

Because the state is charged a small fee by its 3rd party credit card provider to handle on-line payments, they charge an additional \$3.50 for each renewal done on-line. Many vehicle owners gladly pay this as opposed to spending the duration of the day waiting their turn at the various DMV offices around the state.

If you must come in to an office instead of utilizing the renewal by mail or on-line options, the DMV encourages vehicle owners to come in at off-peak time periods. These periods are at the middle of the week and middle of the month as shown by data collected by the DMV.

More information about on-line renewals can be found at www.utah.gov, and at participating Renewal Express inspection stations. Since the on-line service was introduced in Sept. 2000, thousands of Utahns have renewed using the Internet – most during the end-of-the-month “crunch time” to avoid standing in line at the DMV.

The DMV is a division of the Utah State Tax Commission.

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